AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method of sampling internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network comprising the steps of

sampling packets at network traffic points as a function of an internet protocol packet content, and

generating a packet label for each sampled packet, wherein a sampling interval for a given period is determined by the upper bound of a sampled packet's expected lifetime.

10. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) Circuit apparatus for sampling internet protocol traffic over links of an internet protocol network for use in sampling traffic at network traffic points comprising

a processor for computing a sampling function, responsive to the sampling function, for determining packets to be sampled, and for generating a label for each sampled packet, said processor for determining a sampling interval by the upper bound of a sampled packet's expected lifetime.

23. – 34. (Cancelled)